THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Central Monitoring Cell has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Civil Aviation to monitor movement of export cargo. Extra sectional flights have been allowed to Air India as well as to foreign carriers for clearing backlog as and when necessary. The capacity for the storage of cargo at the Airport has been substantially augmented. Air India have also added to its cargio carrying capacity.

Harmful Effect of Caffeine in Soft Drink

*430. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soft drinks contain caffeine;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether additives and caffeine like chemicals in food and drinks may cause restlessness, hyperactivity and impair the faculty of learning;

(d) whether it is a fact that children in India are generally forbidden to drink tea or coffee as these are considered harmful in view of the caffeine content therein, but are allowed to drink cola drinks; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and what measures are proposed to be taken to educate the people about the harmful effects of the soft drinks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The standards of carbonated water laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, permit addition of caffeine as an optional ingredient to a concentration not exceeding 200 parts per million (200 mg. /kg.)

(c) No, Sir, provided it is within the prescribed standard under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.

(d) and (e) Folders on food laws and tips to food safety and nutritional diets have been distributed to enlighten the public on nutritional value of food articule including soft drinks for all age groups.

Commemorative Stamp on Samartha Swami Ram Das

*431. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the issue of a commemorative stamp in memory of Samartha Sawami Ram Dass;

(b) if so, when was this proposal placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration;

(c) what is the decision of the Committee thereon; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This proposal was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for consideration at its meetings held on 30-10-81, 18-12-82, 29-8-83 and 12-11-84 but was not recommended by the Committee.

(d) The proposal will be placed again before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for reconsideration at its next meeting. Date for the meeting has not yet been decided.